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Oct 18 tf. WM. C. B. GIBBONS, Proprietor

A PUBLIC PROTEST.

COLORED PEOPLE SPEAKING OUT ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COLORED TEACHERS—ROUSING MEETING AT BETHEL CHURCH—SPEECHES BY MARSHAL DOUGLASS, MR. MATTHEWS AND OTHER GENTLEMEN.

[From the Baltimore American.]

A largely attended meeting of colored citizens was held last night at Bethel African M. E. Church to petition the School Board to elect colored teachers to colored public schools, the main point of attraction being the presence of Marshal Frederick Douglass, of the District of Columbia. Rev. J. H. A. Johnson presided. He said that those before him had assembled to discuss the most important question that can agitate the colored people of the city—to ask that colored teachers be appointed to colored schools. In other cities the same question is now being discussed. He read a petition to the School Board that in the selection of teachers for the public schools no discrimination be made on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, and that qualification shall be the only test of merit; and that when a properly qualified colored person presents himself, vacancies shall be as readily made for him as for any other class of teachers; that colored teachers feel a deeper interest in the welfare of colored pupils than can be the case with white teachers, and that the selection of colored teachers for colored schools will create a laudable ambition on the part of the pupils. Mr. Johnson stated that it was desired to secure signatures of white and colored men to these petitions. He said that there was no doubt that difficulties apparently insurmountable are in the way of the accomplishment of this object. A quiet, peaceably-disposed colored man walked the streets of the city only a few days ago, when a white man put to him the question, "Are you a Republican?" and with that shoots him in cold blood; and then we see a majestic senator come down from the height he occupies and takes his place as a defender of a cold-blooded murder. We cannot withstand such injustice long. Notwithstanding the shame of a senator occupying the position of a criminal lawyer, we want the opinion of the colored people, and their voice shall be only as one voice to demand the rights of the colored people, and also that the doors of the schools be opened wide for the colored teachers. [Applause.]

REMARKS OF MR. MATTHEWS.

William E. Matthews, the first speaker introduced, said that a few weeks ago the state was stirred from centre to circumference by a political contest, but far more important and transcendental was the question on behalf of which they were assembled here to-night, than that of who shall be governor of the state or mayor of the city. It is a profound question; and it is a cause of regret that in the afternoon of the nineteenth century there should be cause for a meeting to agitate it. Our government is a democracy, and we declare that the blackest and the poorest is the peer of the most haughty and the mightiest. Ours is a government of the people, and for the people, and by the people, and there is no one class above another. We recognize the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. There have been for years in Boston, Providence, Cleveland and other cities colored ladies teaching white pupils. No other qualification than that of mind should be necessary in the question of a teacher's election. We are and have always been citizens—long before the passage of the recent amendments. We engrafted our citizenship upon the organic law of the land when we fought with Lafayette, Jackson and Grant, and the bones of our dead are scattered in all Southern battle fields, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. Inasmuch as we have borne the burdens of citizenship so long, is it not just and fair and honest that we should enjoy some of the honors and privileges and emoluments of citizenship? Only the other day the country was electrified by the heroism of colored troops on the Indian frontier, who, by gallantry never surpassed, saved the white soldiers from the jaws of death. He was not here to make a tirade against white teachers. Only a few years ago a band of noble and exalted women came down from Massachusetts and Rhode Island and other states, leaving homes of affluence to assist in forming that magnificent school system which is the pride of the Southern land. But it must be said that in this city there are many white teachers who bring no such devotion or consecration to their work, and whose chief interest in their work is centered in the signing of the pay roll. They consider it a compromise of their dignity to teach colored pupils, and they are, therefore, on account of their prejudice, incapacitated from the work in which they are engaged. Everywhere where colored teachers are substituted for white teachers in the colored public schools the system has worked well. The greater portion of the work is done outside of the school room, and a teacher who has no communion with the parents and knows nothing of the privations and home influence of the pupil cannot exert a good influence. The average white teacher in this city never visits the home of the colored pupil. There is no department or branch of profession in which white men excel that colored men are not their equals. If the "authorities that be" say that after thirteen years of the existence of the colored schools there are no graduates of these schools that are capable of teaching, such a statement is the most damaging commentary upon the lack of efficiency in the colored schools. When the colored pupils see the efficiency of a colored teacher their latent powers will be stirred up to emulate their example, and that can never be done as long as they associate greatness with the white people. The $50,000 paid annually into the pockets of white teachers in colored schools should go into the pocket of the colored people. Money represents civilization, and will enable the colored people to buy books, pictures, music and secure other civilizing influences. This money comes out of the pockets of colored taxpayers, who own $6,000,000 of property in the city, on which they pay taxes, and who are entitled to representation in our schools. All great efforts are the outcome of agitation, and it is by agitation that this effort must succeed. Without the agitation of a dozen men, among them Wendell Phillips and Frederick Douglass (applause), there would have been no war; and without a war there would have been no emancipation. It is partly the fault of the colored race that they do not exercise as great an influence as they ought. If they had been wise and placed their claims in he hands of good leaders, they would not this day be knocking at the doors of the School Board for this privilege. If they had taken advantage of their opportunities immediately after their enfranchisement, and organized politically, they would today be represented not only in the School Board, but in the City Hall and the State House at Annapolis. If any of you desire to be represented in the City Hall by a councilman or a representative of the state in the Annapolis capital, it is your right to-day, for you are, as citizens, the peers of any other men and an integral part of the commonwealth. He hailed with joy the project for a state convention of colored men to discuss their grievances and demand representation according to their numerical strength. If the colored men are wise, the political parties will be equally balanced, and the time is not far distant when the Democratic and Republican leaders will come to the leaders of the colored men, with hat in hand, and ask that the thousands of colored voters vote with them; and then they will only vote with such an organization as will guarantee them representation in the municipal and state governments. In Washington there are 7,000 colored pupils, 124 colored and 4 white teachers. The principal, Miss Briggs, receives $1,350 a year, and the colored teachers receive in an aggregate salaries to the amount of $80,000 a year. The city ordinance for the establishment of colored schools in Baltimore, passed under the administration of Mayor Chapman, requires that no distinction be made in the selection of teachers on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Yet, the law is a dead letter. They were endeavoring by this meeting to place upon some dusky brow the crown which Jupiter declared an instructor of youth alone should wear. (Applause.)

SPEECH OF MARSHALL DOUGLASS.

Frederick Douglass was then introduced, and was received with tumultuous applause. He said he did not come here to make, but rather to hear, a speech. He heard an admirable speech, remarkable because it had not dealt in glittering generalities. He said: "I have had my share of speech making, as I have been at it for over forty years, and only came here to let you see my gray head, and let you know that I am still on the side of freedom and equality; on the side of justice and fair play. Justice is the perpetual disposition to render to every man his due; and we are here in the same old cause of liberty, justice and equality. [Applause.] We are only following the line marked out for us by Bethel Church more than fifty years ago—the principle of the assertion and dignity of manhood, and Bethel Church can be in no better service than it exercises this evening. The question here discussed is a self-evident proposition; yet it is fact that we have to argue this self-evident proposition. It is self-evident that every man has the right to occupy that position for which his ability qualifies him. A house has a right to just as much space as its walls occupy, and a ship has the right to draw as much water as its size allows. It is self-evident that a man has a right to do that for which he is fitted, whatever his race or color, whether he be a Caucasian or Mongolian, Ethiopian or an Indian. [Applause.] I am very glad of the cautious yet bold assertion of the purpose of the meeting by the speakers. No tirade against white teachers because of their race or color is to be permitted. This matter of colored men and women being admitted to colored schools supported by taxes contributed by white and colored alike is not a question of color, but of prejudice. There is a disposition among the best of our white friends and worst of our white enemies to make the colored man "keep his place." [Laughter.] They love us, but at a long distance. [Laughter.] Generally love wants its object to be very near, in the same city, under the same roof, or in the same room. [Laughter.] But the love which some of our white friends bear toward us is to have us at gentlemanly distance and in humble places. It is a fact that the time was when, in the words of Chief Justice Taney, "Black men had no rights which white men were bound to respect." The leaven is still here, but the spirit rather subdued. I remember the time when, fifty years ago, I saw our brethren chained together and driven down Pratt street to City Block, where they took the vessel for the New Orleans market, there to be sold like sheep and swine. But the preachings of the pulpit, the utterances of the press and a growing civilization demanded that this hell-black crime should not be displayed in public, and coaches were obtained in which the slaves were taken to the wharf, and the rattle of the old chain and the clanks of the old fetters were concealed from the public ear. Finally, the whipping post at the County wharf was permitted to rot away. Then Sunday schools were opened to the colored people. But we Negroes are an irrepressible people, and there is no keeping us back; and as we stopped the cargoes of human merchandise to New Orleans, so also we shall get into these schools. [Applause.] I won't despair of anything. The first argument in favor of emancipation was in a book written by Rev. Mr. Godwin, of Jamaica, who, in a volume of two hundred pages, proved that "it was not a sin in the sight of God to baptize a Negro." [Laughter.] This was not so easy to prove. Baptism implies possession of mental power; but the Negro had no will. The question then arose, "If you baptize a Negro you must admit him into the Church of Christ, and he becomes your brother in Christ, and then you must treat him as a brother. By baptism he ceases to become a heathen, and by the common law of Christianity he rises to the dignity of a freeman," [Applause.] But now we can be baptized as often as we please, and still you are not satisfied. You always want something, and I hope you will so continue as long as one of your privileges is curtailed. Some among us have the spirit of Isaiah; they cry aloud and spare not. There is a meaner thing than a slave, and that is a contented slave. I may be a slave, but a contented slave—never. Our color is a mere pretext in the discriminations against us. It is only a contemptible disposition to keep the race down. But we won't stay down. When the war broke out we offered our services to that great and good man, Father Abraham [applause], but they told us "your presence in the army would be distasteful to the white soldiers," and so they undertook to fight the rebels only with one hand—the white hand—and were flogged everytime. Beaten at Chancellorsville, Bull Run and Big Bethel, they found it necessary to call for the black man; but they did not give him a blue uniform, but a red shirt, and instead of putting arms into his hands he was put to digging trenches. But they discovered that it would not do, as the irrepressible Negro was determined to have the blue coat and a gun on his shoulder, and so they put him into arsenals, forts and yellow fever districts, to hold them for the white soldiers, and instead of fighting the rebels, he had to fight yellow fever. [Laughter.] But before the war ended the government found the earth crumbling beneath them, the Star Spangled Banner heavy with blood, and the recruiting sergeants footsore and weary calling for more men. Then they called upon the Negro, and said he was just as good to stop a bullet as anybody else. Then came emancipation, and soon afterwards we wanted the ballot. We agitated the question, and at length we got it. To be sure, the right is crippled by violence in some of the Southern states, and even here it is not protected. Yet this opposition and violence contains within itself the seeds of destruction, and we shall soon exercise unmolested our elective franchise. [Applause.] In regard to the appointment of teachers, all the arguments of the opposition have been ably met. The school commissioners of the city ought to be here, and if they had at heart the interests of the colored race, they would have been here to hear what is said on our side of of the case. They should have come here with the words, "Let us have light," listen to our complaints, and if the complaints are just to redress them. It is little, it is contemptible, to keep a man away from taking charge of a class merely because of his color. Baltimore is too big to be so little. I want you reporters to tell the absentees of the School Board that I think it's a very small business for the Commissioners of Public Schools of Baltimore to continue to exclude from such positions talented and competent men, in every way qualified to fill them, simply because they are colored. They may wriggle and twist as much as they please about their incompetency, but the whole world knows that there are hundreds and thousands of competent colored people to teach the public schools. We are not only lawyers and doctors, but also inventors, and I myself have invented something to keep spectacles on a man's nose when he perspires. [Laughter.] This prejudice against color exists only in this country. I have been where the people are whiter than the people of the United States (and we, too, are getting white as fast as we can), and wherever I went, whether into the House of Lords or the House of Commons, in the British Museum or in the palaces, highways, parks and churches, at private tables and on the street, I found myself received as a man, and have never heard a word or seen a gesture or a disposition to insult me on account of my color. We will not be kept down but we must struggle for and demand our rights. There is nothing valuable under the sky but a struggle must be made for it. There are rights in reserve for us, but we must contend for them. No nation that enjoys liberty can wear it so sublimely as one that has wrenched it from the reluctant hand of some tyrant. We put the colored schools on the defence before the Christianity and humanity of the community and ask the colored teachers to plead before the tribunal of the people. Our case is just, and must triumph; but you must continue to agitate it until you secure your rights. [Applause.]

The petition read by Mr. Johnson was adopted and signed by a number of those present. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the speakers and the meeting adjourned.

A Letter from Missouri.

Mr. Editor:

Having the pleasure of reading a copy of your valuable paper but failing to find any thing in it concerning our people in Jefferson City, I take the liberty if granted to inform its readers though its columns. Rev. John Turner formerly pastor of St. Paul chapel in St. Louis, Mo., is now pastor of the A. M. E. church of this city, elder Turner has many fine qualities as a minister he is an earnest, zealous and faithful worker in the cause of Christ, friend of education and an enthusiastic supporter of educational institutions. Suffice it to say, since he has been officiating over the A. M. E. church in this city much needed and useful work has been done on the church by his influence and his earnestness the slumbering elements of earnest labor in the moral vineyard have been awakened and has unfolded their genial wings and soared aloft.

On Thanksgiving day, Thursday November 27th., an entertainment was to be held at the A. M. E. church but owing to the inclemency of the weather it was postponed until Friday evening Nov. 28th. The entertainment consisted of a lecture and a musical concert. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Ioman E. Page of Lincoln Institute, subject, Conditions of National Prosperity. All who are acquainted with Prof. Page pronounce him a polished and an educated gentleman. An eastern education combined with natural ability has made him an intellectual giant; the mention of his name to lecture is a signal for a full house, and on this occasion there was no exception. The subject was discussed in a scholarly way, and all who heard it pronounced it a masterly production. As an orator he is eloquent and deep in pathos, graceful in gesticulations, striking in illustrations and logical in reasoning and is justly styled an intellectual leader.

The concert consisted of vocal and instrumental music; by the skillful management and untiring efforts of Mrs. Z. R. Page accomplished wife of Prof. Page a glee club was organized and trained and the people of this city were favored with a rare treat by its music. Mr. B. T. Perkins presided at the organ with much grace, the feature of this concert, was a solo sung by Miss Mary L. Potts a solo sung by Mr. J. B. Hayden, also a duet sung by Misses Potts and Ida V. Terrell all of which produced long and continued applause.

Yours Truely,

T. N. MATLOCK.

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.
SATURDAY, December 13, 1879.

J. W. CROMWELL, Editor and Proprietor.

☞All communications and other items intended for publication should reach here Wednesday morning, and local items not later than Thursday morning.

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Box 263

We understand that an invitation has been tendered the Washington Church Choir Pinafore Company by the mayor of Frederick, Md., to visit that city. We trust they will accept.

A number of white citizens of Richmond, County, Va., have petitioned the judge of the county court "that the jury list, as prepared for the current civil year, shall, at the earliest convenience of the court, be so revised and amended as to include within the same the names of such of the colored citizens of the county, as the court shall think well qualified to serve as jurors." A colored jury has just tried a criminal of their own race in the county of Albermarle. Verily the world moves.

If there is one obstacle more than another whch postpones the granting of suffrage to the colored people of this District it is the undue influence of demogogues of the pot-house politician order, who, possessing "the gift of gab," a knowledge of parliamentary usages, and a general lack of integrity, are never better pleased than when they appeal to the lowest instincts of the mob in language of thundering length and awful sound. There were some such demagogues at Bethel Hall, Monday night. It is time to frown them down.

It is altogether unnecessary for us to state that the criminal charge which the local editor of the "Argus" makes against us is absolutely false. "Misery loves company," but we are sorry we cannot join him. It is not at all likely that the colored teachers of Virginia would have honored us repeatedly with their suffrages without a word of protest or of unfavorble criticism, if we were a refugee from the State; and with this we dismiss the matter from our columns.

It is amazing that there are those who declare that the notice on Pinafore in our last issue was written "under pressure" whatever, that is and actuatey by prejudice against the Roman Catholic Church. If these people will reason a little, they will see how baseless is such a charge; if Miss Miller was extolled with some reservation because she is a singer in the choir of St. Augustine's and a Catholic, certain it is that Mr. Benjamin must have been commended without stint, for the same reason—for its a bad rule that does not work both ways. Comparisons are necessarily odious, but when Misses Lawrence and Miller enacted the same roles on alternate nights they became inevitable. We do not pretend to pass opinion on Miss Miller's musical proficiency or to say that it is inferior to that of Miss Lawrence; but certain it is with the general public, were a vote taken, Miss Mattie L. Lawrence would be decided the superior artist. As such we commended and do now commend her. We are willing to bide our time as to the justness of the verdict. That star differeth from star in glory is proverbably true of vocalists, and it also a fact that with no class of persons is there such susceptibility to criticism and jealousy as with singers.

Miss Fannie M. Jackson, the principal of the Colored High School in the city of Philadelphia, has just led in the holding of a Bazaar in behalf of the *Christian Recorder*, uniting different colored Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches of that city, and receiving substantial encouragement in shape of money and articles from the most distant states of the South and West. She now makes an appeal to the citizens of Philadelphia to rally to her support by purchasing at a fair valuation the articles yet remaining unsold.

Nothing like unto this Bazaar has been held in Philadelphia within the memory of the present generation. We heartily trust that the *Recorder* will realize a handsome sum, and be enabled to start the new year with a clean sheet.

To the kind consideration of our Boston agent, James M. Trotter, we are indebted for a detailed acccount of the unveiling of the Lincoln Memorial group at Boston last Saturday. It is a *fac simile* of the well known group in Lincoln Park of this city, unveiled April 14, 1876, and is the gift of Moses Kimball, Esq., to the city of Boston. After the formal unveiling, the exercises were adjourned to Faneuil Hall, which were opened with music by Brown's Brigade Band of twenty-five pieces; prayer by Rev. Phillips Brooks, music and the reading of an original poem from Whittier by "Andrew Chamberlain, a pupil of the Boston Latin School, the young colored man who so acceptably read the Declaration of Independence at the Boston Theatre on the Fourth of last July."

Among the invited guests, besides the state and city officials, we note the presence of Wm. Lloyd Garrison jr., George T. and Francis J. Garrison, sons of the late William Lloyd Garrison, and George T. Downing of Newport, R. I.

THE UNCLAIMED BOUNTY.

The bills of Senator Bailey and Representative Goode to invest the $510,000 unclaimed bounty of colored soldiers and sailors of the late war in four per cents, the interest to be used by the trustees of Howard University, Hampton Agricultural Institute, Atlanta, Fisk and Straight Universities, is in its fundamental principle of devoting this fund to aiding in the education of colored youth, open to little or no objection; but it is an open question as to whether the colored race would receive the greater benefit if the aid were given only to secure the higher education afforded by the special institutions created since the war, or that given by the leading colleges and universities of the country, such as the Johns Hopkins, Yale, Harvard, Cornell and Ann Arbor. If higher education is intended, let it be that which already passes current the country and world over. If a young man or woman is to be equipped for the struggle of life, he needs the training of those whose methods have passed beyond the condition of mere experiment.

Again: it needs not demonstration that $510,000 in one fund would be far more effectual for aiding in higher education than if it were divided into five portions as contemplated by this bill now before Congress. Let us particularize: as every one knows the interest accruing would be $20,400; let us take the average cost of maintaining pupils in the schools chosen at $100 per annum, which would be sufficient to keep two hundred and four pupils constantly under instruction, at least one for every Congressional District in which there are at least ten thousand colored youth. One institution of learning receiving this sum would afford better facilities for the higher education than any one or all of the five institutions aided to the extent of four thousand and eighty dollars annually; in other words, the entire sum would provide an endowment of the highest scholarship, while the sum divided as proposed would be frittered away. So much on this point.

But is it the *higher* education of our race that is the most urgent need, and which it is the duty of Congress to promote?

Referring to the reports of Superintendents of Education from the different Southern States, it will be ascertained that not more than one-third of the educable youth are under tutelage, and these on an average, less than six months in any year. Would not the fund do greater service if used towards securing a better class of teachers, than in educating a professional class? The great educational need of the race is a thorough knowledge of the rudiments of all learning; and this can be best promoted through a carefully trained class of teachers. It has been suggested by a gentleman of wide advanced experience as an educator, that this sum administered like the Peaboby fund under the management of gentlemen well known for their interest and capability in educational affairs, would do vastly more for the progress of the American Negro in this direction than any other method yet suggested.

THE LATE CONCERTS.

Fair-play should certainly give what he demands, and not read us a lecture on ingratitude and the proprieties of criticism. We do not know whether A. S. A. S. attended the Pinafore Concerts or not; but we infer from his introductory sentence that he is neither a musical critic nor one of "those who attended the entertainments," and speaks from report rather than from personal knowledge. That "Miss M. is as far superior to Miss L. in every degree of music as Madam Selika is ahead of Miss Miller," certainly does not receive the support of a respectable *minority* of the Washington public. That "she has a decidedly sweeter and more musical voice combined with more volume and greater range of compass," we will not dogmatically deny; but we are satisfied to rest the "sweetness," if there is any doubt about it, with the general public who have had ample opportunity to judge during the last three years. If, as our correspondent insists, Miss M. has had *longer* and *better* musical advantages, then Miss L. is not only a better singer naturally, but she must be conceded an apter student. What Miss M. does as choir soprano, or what Miss L. can not do in this particular, as the lawyers would say, is not to the issue. We simply passed on the adaptation of Miss Lawrence for the leading *role* of Pinafore and other operatic music generally. As to Miss L's capacity to sing the difficult music of the Roman Catholic church, we have this to say: Miss L. after some solicitation, was induced to join the choir of St. Augustine where she remained a short time; why she didn't *stay* still remains a mystery; but Prof. Esputa certainly is not the man to be mistaken as to the musical capacity of those with whom he was professionally brought in daily contact.

We yield to none in our recognition of the high musical abilities of Miss Miller; and as our personal relations with St. Luke's P. E. church, for the benefit of which these concerts were given, are referred to, we will state for the information of our correspondent, that the services of Miss Miller were contracted for on terms mutually satisfactory, not voluntarily given, as he imagines; so were those of the other singers, not excepting Miss Lawrence.

Now, while we are on this subject, we will state that Mme. Selika has found her greater difficulty in organizing a permanent support—all want to be soloists and prima donnas; they are not willing to sing in duetts or quartettes, and as a result this great vocalist is without regular engagements. We have with us a young lady in the person of Miss Mattie L. Lawrence who unites in a greater degree those personal graces and qualities of voice which a lyrical or operatic singer must possess. The fact that she is a Baptist has nothing whatever to do with it, for, if the matter were left with that denomination they would make short work of her higher musical aspirations. We have also in the person of Miss Lena Miller a lady who has done not a little in gaining for the choir of her church the reputation of being the very best in the city.

Let Miss Lawrence, therefore, be encouraged and her talents be duly recognized; let Miss Miller still lead off in the rendition of the sacred works of the Masters, and win encomiums that extend as far as our country. Both will ever have the appreciation and hearty support of the people of this community.

NORFOLK NOTES.

In the course of events it has come to pass that the Carpet-Bag Post Master of Norfolk having recently become Democracised, has appointed a "white man" in the place of a competent, honest and intelligent colored man who has served in the capacity of mail carrier for two years, and as a substitute for more than than three years, without the least complaint of any description. This is only a fraction of the treatment that the colored men receive at the hands of their so-called Republican allies in this section.

The Funder papers seem to be very sore over the appointment of Mr. G. W. Cook as first Door-keeper of the Legislature, and are now howling after their brothers of the opposite side with the shrillness of their former "Rebel Yell" over the appointment of a Negro over a one-legged ex-Confederate: now, gentlemen, this is only a commencement and we are sure that in less than twelve months that they will howl with renewed vigor.

The "Ladies' Social Club" gave their first reception at the residence of Miss Fannie Fuller on Monday evening last which was quite an enjoyable affair. Among the ladies present were Misses Eliza Jordan, Zalie Stith, Martha Cross, Katie Allen, Mary Harris, Sallie Sheppard, Maria Pryor, Mary Pool, Laura Wilson, Mary Francis, Martha Bonney and others. This club has our best wishes for success.

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OCCASIONAL.

December 9, 1879.

Chew Jackson's Best Sweet Navy Tobacco.

VIRGINIA.

STIRRING UP REBEL GALL—DEMOCRATIC INCONSISTENCIES—NEGRO SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS—FUTURE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE STATE.

NORFOLK, VA., *Dec.*, 4th, 1879.

The twentieth anniversary of the murder of John Brown by the Bourbon Democrats of Virginia is indeed a very memorable epoch in the history of the State and the Democratic party and the newspapers throughout the State seldom fail to celebrate the event by congratulatory leaders, but this year the reorganization of the legislature which happened on the very day and hour of the murderer's anniversary has produced a feeling of great madness and delirious sorrow.

Yesterday afternoon as the bulletins gave the news and the result of the election of officers by the Liberals at the State Capitol, our city became as it has not been since the week after the last Presidential election; when terror stared Republicans in the face and the salutations given them bore an air of, if not preceded by, threatenings. Yesterday was a wild day and the barkeepers were kept busy till past mid night, drowning the mad, cruelly mad anger of the Bourbon Democrats mad at the action of the Liberals in electing as the doorkeeper of the General Assembly, George W. Cook, esq, of this city, who so eloquently championed the cause of our present Mayor, Capt. John S. Tucker year before last and as eloquently and fervently supported the readjusters in the late campaign. The very bile of the slavocrats the bitterest gall of a conquered rebellion, was stirred up by this simple act of justice done to a man whom Marmaduke Johnson use to commend to the people of the good old commonwealth. Mr. Cook is a Negro of undoubted gentlemanly qualities and ability and will fill the position with credit. But this is not the first time a Negro occupied that position instead of a one armed confederate soldier. John Cooley was elected to and did fill this same position by and under the Democrats during the first legislature after the revolt. Hunter held office under the same party so did Hall and in our city Northern ex-union soldiers have been appointed and elected to office in preference to one armed confederate soldiers. The Negro politicians in this State have held up to the timid and niggardly Republicans as an example. The conduct of the Democrats in the appointment of Negroes to positions at every caucus of the party. They don't care about the doorkeeper no matter who he is; its the effort to rally again the routed Bourbon troops of the late Conservative party on the twentieth anniversary of the murder of John Brown.

G. W. Cook is elected to an honorary position by the black and white Liberals of Virginia, and the liberty for which Brown prayed with the Negro child in his arms the Liberals will secure the Negro if he but acts intelligently. This is his opportunity to obtain the repeal of all obnoxious laws and oppress on acts to reform the judiciary, put out the man who put Mr. and Mrs. Kenney in prison, withdraw the Attorney General from the prosecution of Judge Rives before the U. S. Supreme Court and abolish the slave code; reenact the bastardy act and appoint Negro superintendents for Negro schools, give full force to Sumner's Civil Rights Bill and let party lines be drawn on principles and not color There is talk among Republicans that if this is done the Republicans would be virtually disbanded—this is gush, and only old people after the style of Senator Smith believe or see it. One thing is settled, the white men who have led will not lead the Negroes in Virginia again; all confidence is lost in them and this is true of some of my warmest Negro friends. Misused learning is as bad as ignorance and the oppressed know it; they struggled for freedom which they prized more than paying the State debt or electing a U. S. Senator through ready and willing to do both. They have doubtless won at least the opportunity of freeing themselves despite the efforts of of the federal office holders in the 4th Congressional District all of whom tried to take a part and help to organize the legislature. Many old leaders will die soon; the Negro has evidently kicked them off of their backs; they will not ride into office upon them any more and then hitch 'em at the door till they want another ride. They will find perhaps a solace in rending Woolsey's "long farwell." With the reforms indicated, the Republican party under new leaders will take new life and become potent in the State even as early as next fall. Gen. Mahone has now the Bourbon Conservative party and got out of it all he wanted save Governorship, that they refused him and then he turned and has gathered a force under a liberal banner recognizing the equal rights of all men before the law. With that force he has won a victory for them and himself and will go now to the Senate, and in 1881, become Governor of the State unless his Negro allies had rather fight for an old Republican like Wickham and remain slaves as they are, deprived of their rights.

ESKIAM.

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SATURDAY, December 18, 1879.

JEROME A. JOHNSON News Editor.

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AGENTS.

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Baltimore ..... J. H. Williams.
Norfolk.....T. J. Corprew.
Northern Virginia.....O. L. Grant.
Tennessee.....H. W. Rolfe.
New York.....G. W. Hardmond.
Raleigh.....B. J. Edwards.
Levi Cromwell, Gen'l Ag't for Philadelphia.
Washington.....G. B. Anderson
C. A. Lemar, Collector for Washington.

LOCAL.

☞We call the attention of our correspondents and others to the notice at the head of our columns giving the days on which articles for publication should reach this office.

—Societies and Churches desiring local notices of their entertainments and other special exercises in order to ensure the same should send complimentary tickets.

—A grand bazaar will be given by the Bethlehem Baptist Sunday School teachers on Thursday and Friday evenings, December 25th. and 26th. 1879, at their church, Hillsdale, D. C., when the Christmas presents will be distributed to the scholars. Proceeds are, for the new organ, tickets ten cents good for each night, and can be had from any of the teachers.

—Elegant furnished rooms single or *en suite*. The best of table board can be had at 709 I st., n. w. The house is desirable, having a Southern exposure, location central, newly furnished throughout, and all the modern improvements. Terms at popular prices.

—E. W. Jones of Phiadelphia departed this life on Thursday of last week and was buried on Monday 8th. and a large number of friends assembled to take the last look on his remains. For ten years he was an ardent worker and superintendent of the Sabbath School of the Brick Wesley Church of which he was an active, and conscientious member. He was a very genial gentleman and had very many friends. Although we bow with humble submission to the will of God we regret that one of such high promise should be taken away in the prime of life.

—Among the visitors to our city during the past week we notice Mrs. John H. Lewis of Boston, the guest of Mrs. Lue Mason, 14th. st. Mr. H. P. Howard of Fall River, the guest of Mr. Archer, Miss Addie Jackson of Baltimore, the guest of the Misses Myers, 14th. st. Mrs. P. A. Roberts and Mrs. Emanuel Jones of Phila., and Mrs. P. Downing of Brooklyn, who is visiting her brother Mr. Brown, I street.

—Three ladies, Mrs. Monroe, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Savoy, of the Christian Workers of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church, have this week collected the handsome sum of one hundred and forty four dollars and sixty six cents ($144.66) for the exodus sufferers. $110, they turned over to Hon. Mr. Clapp, treasurer, $22. 50 they handed Mr Draper pastor of St. Paul's Church and $12.16 they expended in provisions for the refugees.

"The Acme Library of History," as announced by the American Book Exchange, New York. is initiated by a handy and handsome edition of "Milman's Gibbon's Rome," in five volumes, for the small price of $2.50, complete, neatly bound in cloth. Volume one is just ready, two more are to appear in December, and two in January.

Who Speaks Next.

Mr. Editor:

In compliance with your suggestion of last week, I should like very much to aid in a testimonial concert to Miss Lawrence, Miss Miller and Mr. Fleetwood. We have all been charmed by the artistic excellence of the two ladies above named, while we are under no less obligation to Mr. Fleetwood for the able and conscientious devotion in the management of the best concerts we have enjoyed, not only this year, but for many years. I would be glad to subscribe $10 in aid of such a testimonial.

Hastily but heartily,
W. E. MATTHEWS.

A Good Showing.

The Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church resently held its 12th anniversary in Jersey City, N. J. Dr. Rust, its efficient secretary, reports that this society has established and sustains in the South nineteen institutions of learning, six of which have been chartered with full collegiate powers. In these institutions there have been taught during the past year, 2,510 students classified as as follows: Biblical, 453; Law. 20; Medical, 60; Collegiate, 74; Academic, 273; Normal, 1,020, and Primary, 371. The contributions to the society during the year, which are principally from the North is $75,260.75. The society has $250,000 or a quarter of a million of dollars invested in permanent school property and has expended since its organization $788,292,014, and have taught 50,000 pupils, and those taught in the schools of the society have taught at least 300,000 of this race scattered over the South.

Washington, D. C. E. N.

Why Not be Fair to Miss Miller?

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Dec., 11th, 1879.

Editor People's Advocate:

SIR:

Justice demands that since you have lent the power of your trenchant pen to harsh and unjust criticism on the late Pinafore concert, you will at least give space to defend the especial victim of your invidious comparisons; and I therefore undertake to reflect and believe I do honestly reflect the opinion of genuine musical critics and those who attended the entertatuments, when I say that Miller is as far superior to Miss Lawrence in every degree of music as Madame Selika is ahead of Miss Miller. In the first place, she has a decidely sweeter and more musical voice combined with more volume and greater range of compass. Secondly, she has had, and taken advantage of, more and superior training, as shown in her easy and graceful execution of that difficult music sung in St. Augustine's choir, which Miss Lawrence can no more execute properly than the wren can whistle like the mocking bird. In other words and to be witty, Miss Miller is a "Singer," while Miss Lawrence is only a "Grover & Baker."

Now, Mr. Editor, I take no exception to the lavish manner in which you praise Miss Lawrence's powers, but I can't go to the extent to say "she is the rising star in our musical firmament before whom ALL others must pale." However, deal with her as a pet favorite—shower all the flowers of your vocabulary on her, grow eloquent and enthusiastic about her, give her a benefit—but please do let even-handed justice measure out the meed of praise to modest and unpretentious Miss Miller, and do not make "metes and bounds" for the many who know and insist that she is a great singer, while you make no "metes and bounds" to the times she is called upon to sing for Protestant churches, cheerfully responding every time. I think it ungrateful in you as a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and unbecoming you as the Editor of a colored paper to say in regard to her that "nature places certain metes and bounds for us and it is better for us to regard them," followed up by the ironic expression, "We mean by this no depreciation." It is ungrateful because she has rendered her "limited" talents for the benefit of St. Luke's Church at four evenings' entertainment in one month and you might at least speak well of the bridge which carries you over. It is unbecoming you as an Editor, because as a professional man and leader of the people, you should be the last one to disparage the talents or efforts of any colored person struggling up the rugged road to fame in a worthy cause; and even though the obstacles be mountain high and "nature does set metes and bounds," you should advise them to "press on."

I grant that Miss Lawrence is more vivacious, better looking, and naturally an actress, but she can't sing as well as Miss Miller to save her life.

Yours for fair play,
A. ST. A. S.

Pinafore Notice.

1018, 12TH STREET, N. W.,
Dec. 10, 1879.

As it is important to have an early settlement of accounts of the late Pinafore performances, all persons having had tickets for sale are earnestly requested to report their results immediately; returning all unsold tickets, and the cash for those sold as far as collected, and where credit has been given for a time, stating the amount of the same.

Bring or send returns to—

Henry Johnson, Treas. Dept.,
Daniel Murray, Con., Library,
C. A. Fleetwood, Freedman's Bank,

or to the residences of either of the above committee if more convenient.

One Experience from Many.

"I had been sick and miserable so long and had caused my husband so much trouble and expenses, no one seemed to know what ailed me, that I was completely disheartened and discouraged. In this fame of mind I got a bottle of Hop Bitters and used them unknown to my family. I soon began to improve and gained so fast that my husband and family thought it strange and unnatural, but when I told them what had helped me, they said "Hurrah for Hop Bitters! long may they prosper, for they have made mother well and us happy."—The Mother.

Rev. Fitzhugh.

Last Sunday morning by accident we found ourselves at Israel C. M. E. Church, Rev. C. W. Fitzhugh, A. M., pastor. The lecture room was crowded and the pastor in the midst of his sermon. The deepest interest in it was manifested. Among other things stated, the minister said that the Roman Catholic Church was responsible for the French revolution, that the French Republic of to-day was as unstable as the doctrines of her religion; the French mind is subtle and mercurial and the American mind is fast following suit and the Negro imitates the example of his white brother. The true histroy of the people of this country will not be known until the sounding of Gabriel's trump. Before the war while the master chanted his psalms the Negro sang his manas * * *, Referring to Spain, the orator claimed Divine interposition in behalf of Protestantism against the Armada. Every solitary nation, he contended, is scourged in proportion to its religious corruption, and then turning to the refugees present he said, Depend not in the strong arm of civil power but on God. Go where you went before the war and appeal to the same authority. There war never a period of greater debasement than in this country twenty-five years before the was when the pulpit sustained the peculiar institution. Said he, "The Methodists of to-day are not those of twenty-five years ago, they are imitating High Churchism; he therefore, advised them to return to the habits of their fathers.

After following out his idea he said that affliction is the text book of theology to the christain more reliable than the commentaries of the father of the church. In concluding he advocated religious fervency, the rejection of false notions of religion and the inculcation of habits of piety. At the conclusion of his sermon $20.50 were raised for the refugees, $1.11 was contributed by the S. S. D. Fitzhugh is building up a strong congregation in this section of the city and making for himself an enviable reputation as an orator of no mean ability.

[It is not customary for us to publish private letters; but this is so *apropos* that we submit it, suppressing thename and locality out of deference to the writer.]

Mr. Editor:

About two months ago I came to this city where I expect to remain until the next president has been elected. I have been getting you to change the address of my paper so often that I am ashamed to ask you to do so again, almost. But if you don't change it I don't see how I can continue my subscription to the *Advocate*, to which I believe I may be said to be "an old subscriber." Aside from a desire to patronize your paper, I am really proud of the part it is taking in Negro-American journalism, and I appreciate it for the news it contains of home.

As I wrote I cannot but think of the comparative small amount of influence thus far obtained by the Negro-American Press. This thought leads to others that remind me that men, and especially an ostracised and despised race are not apt to attain any great amount of influence in a few years; for as you have so often said th ough your journal, wealth and education are necessary to any people who wish to become influential. We all know that it takes time to accumulate and time to educate. Both wealth and education must have experience to know how to put them to a proper use. They are like sharp tools in the hands of one who does not know how to use them. We should not make the mistake of expecting too much of the young colored man and then realize our expectations. The young may be courageous and enthusiastic, but neither courage nor enthusiasasm can make up for the absence of experience, patience and perseverance. The harvest must be sown and property tended through many weary weeks and months before it is garnered; and even then your chances are not firstrate from a new or long barren soil. On account of causes which were insuperable to us, we have not gained much in the past. To us it has been filled with wrongs and bitterness. The great future is our in which as a race, and as individuals, we may dare, do and sometimes accomplish; and th t consoling thought is far better than any amount of departed glory.

Now, Mr. Cromwell I really feel as though I were taking rather too much liberty with an editor. The ordinary mortal is apt to look upon literary people and school teachers as something above them, and it looks like indescretion, to say nothing more, to say so much to one of whom it may be truly said:

"The wonder was, and still the wonder grew,
How one little head contained all he knew."

Yet we common folk will have our think, and why not let us have our say. Let me say again what I have already said in substance if not so many words: I hope you will take courage with your enterprise, "stick" and have success.

Respectfully.

A new edition of "Kitto's Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature," reduced from $10.00 to $2.00, in two large octavo volumes with several hundred illustrations, is being issued by the American Book Exchange, New York.

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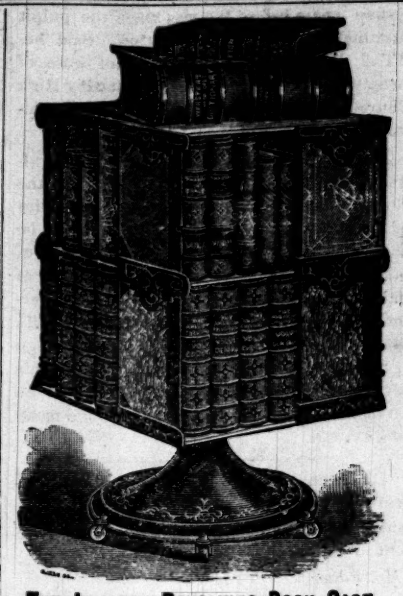

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